



USS LST-68

Builder: Jeffersonville Boat and Machine Company, Jeffersonville, Indiana

Commissioned: 4 June 1943

Assigned to: LST Flotilla 7, Group 21, Division 41

Decommissioned: 7 March 1946

Disposition: Sold for scrap on 18 September 1947 to Southern Shipwrecking Co., New Orleans.

Length: 327' 9" oa

Beam: 50'

Draft: 1' 6" bow, 7' 5" stern (unloaded); 8' 2" bow, 14' 1" stern (loaded -- at sea); 3' 1" bow, 9' 6" (loaded -- beaching)

Displacement: 1,625 (light); 4,080 (w/ full load of 2,100 tons)

Propulsion: 2 x General Motors 12-567 diesels, twin shafts/rudders

Range: 24,000 nm @ 9 knots

Top Speed: 11.6 knots

Complement: 111

Troops: 163

Initial Armament: 7 x 40mm (single mount); 6 x 20 mm (single mount); 2 x .50-caliber mgs; 4 x .30-caliber mgs

Commanding Officers:

LT Karl A. F. Lindquist

LT(jg) Thomas E. Poaler

History:

USS *LST-68*

LST Flotilla 7, Group 21, Division 41

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-68* was laid down at Jeffersonville, Indiana by the Jeffersonville Boat Company and was launched on 8 March 1943. She was sponsored by Mrs. Edna C. Crenshaw. After being floated down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, she was placed in commission on 26 May 1943 under the command of LT Karl A.F. Lindquist, USCG. Her Coast Guard crew reported aboard the following day.

Departing the continental United States on 20 July 1943, she reported in the Southwest Pacific on 28 September 1943, and to LST Flotilla 7 on 28 October 1943. She remained with the Seventh Fleet until 25 August 1945, when she was attached to ComSeaFron, Philippines. After participating in three support landings, those at Lae on 23 November and 5 December 1943, and at Cape Cretin on 16 December 1943, *LST-68* was at the initial landing at Cape Gloucester, New Britain on 26 December 1943 where she was under enemy air attack and destroyed one enemy plane.

Two support landings at Cape Gloucester on the 5th and 13th of January, 1944, were followed by three support landings at Saidor on January 16th, 19th and the 29th. During February, on the 15th, a return to Cape Gloucester was followed by three more trips to Saidor on the 18th, 22nd and 26th. These were followed by two initial landings, one at Los Negros Island, Admiralty Islands on 6 March 1944, and one at Tanah Merah Bay, New Guinea, on 23 April 1944. During June and July two more support landings were made, one on 12 June at Biak Island, under enemy air attack, and one on 12 July 1944 at Noemfoor Island. An initial landing at Cape Sansapor, Dutch New Guinea, followed on 20 July, followed by three support landings on the same island on August 7th, 15th and 23rd. After another support landing on 16 September 1944, at Morotai where she came under enemy air attack, *LST-68* proceeded to Alexishafen, New Guinea on 29 September 1944 to undergo major overhaul.

On 20 October *LST-68* was at the initial landing on Leyte Island, Philippines under air attack. In a subsequent support landing at Leyte on 12 November 1944, under air attack, she destroyed one enemy plane and probably a second. Following the initial landing at Lingayen Gulf on 9 January 1945, she arrived under enemy air attack and shore artillery fire for a support landing on 11 January 1945. This was followed by a second support landing there on 8 February 1945.

The LST was in the initial landing at Panay Island, Philippines, on 18 March 18 1945, followed by a support landing on the 25th. On the 29th she was at the

initial landing at Negros Island, Philippine Islands. After supply runs from Leyte Gulf to Manila and Subic Bay, Luzon from April to June 1945, she arrived at Manus, Admiralty Islands on 17 July 1945, for major overhaul. She departed Manus on 17 September 1945, for supply runs to Subic Bay, Morotai, Mindanao and Guinan, Samar, Philippine Islands. Departing there on 7 November 1946 she reached Galveston, Texas, where she was decommissioned and her Coast Guard crew removed on 7 March 1946.

The USS *LST-68* earned eight battle stars for her service during World War II.



No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.

The USS *LST-68* during the Cape Gloucester invasion, December 1943 / January 1944.

Sources:

LST files, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

United States Coast Guard. *The Coast Guard At War. V. Transports and Escorts. Vol. 2.* Washington: Public Information Division, Historical Section, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, May 1, 1949, pp. 66-116.

United States Navy. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.* Volume VII. Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1981, pp. 574-742.

